

ANSWER OF PRESIDENT TO TEUTON PEACE PLEA IS DUE IN FEW HOURS

CONGRESS MAY BE ASKED TO GATHER TO HEAR DECISION

Reply Being Drafted Following Conference With Cabinet Officers and Col. House.

ARMISTICE PROPOSAL IS RECEIVED FROM TURKEY

The official text of the German note replying to President Wilson's interrogations was handed to the Secretary of State this morning by Frederick Oederlin, charge d'affaires of the Swiss legation. It was found to conform to the unofficial version published yesterday.

The President at 10 o'clock summoned Secretary Lansing and Secretary of War Baker to his study in the White House for a conference, in which Col. E. M. House also participated. Secretary Baker is just back from the battle fronts of France, Belgium and Italy and from meetings with the premiers of the allied countries and the high commanders of all allied forces.

President Wilson had discussed the unofficial note fully with Col. House, who came down from New York on the train with him last night, and also with Secretary Lansing, before this morning's conference.

Confere for Nearly Two Hours.

Secretary Daniels joined the White House conference. The President and his advisers were together for nearly two hours, then the cabinet officers and Col. House walked over to the State War and Navy Building, leaving the President alone in his study, where nearly all of his notes and utterances have been drafted.

The Swiss charge appeared at the State Department shortly after the appointed time and delivered the note without comment.

A few minutes later the note was in the hands of the President. A State Department messenger took it to the White House as soon as Secretary Lansing had read the document and found it did not differ from the wireless version.

Allies Acting in Accord.

Counselor Polk of the State Department was at the British embassy in the forenoon in consultation with Colville Barclay, counselor and charge in the absence of Lord Reading, and other officials of the embassy.

Counselor Polk's visit was considered to be significantly connected with the word from London that the British government is inclined to oppose the granting of an armistice until complete guarantees of both a military and naval nature come from Germany.

This Development, Reported in Associated Press Dispatches from London, Probably Has Some Relation to the Announcement Saturday That Great Britain, France and Italy were Agreeing upon a common line of action.

Turkey's Peace Plea Received.

Turkey's long-delayed note asking, like Germany and Austria, that President Wilson take in hand the restoration of peace was received today at the State Department.

The only official intimation that came in the early hours of the day was that the President was probable that he is sure to act quickly and decisively. However, the confident belief prevailed that whatever might be the result of the action, the President would not be able to make any such proposal at the instance of the present German government, or a renewed statement of the conditions under which peace must be restored.

Quick Decision Probable.

It is assumed that since Saturday night at least informal exchanges have taken place between Washington and the capitals of the co-belligerents. Informed of the views of the allied premiers, the President may determine before the day is over whether his reply to the German request that he propose an armistice and peace negotiations shall be a refusal to make any such proposal at the instance of the present German government, or a renewed statement of the conditions under which peace must be restored.

It was suggested that the President might ask for a joint session of House and Senate to communicate his decision and the reasons for it to Congress, the country and the world.

Discussion of Germany's peace reply in the Senate today was begun by Senator New of Indiana, who declared nothing short of unconditional surrender of the German army will meet the demands of the people.

LUEDENDORFF IN RAGE OFFERS RESIGNATION

GENEVA, Sunday, October 13.—Gen. Ludendorff flew into a rage and offered his resignation last week, according to a report from Munich. The general's ire was aroused when he found that the first German note had resulted in bringing out the fact that the entente would demand an evacuation of occupied territory before the question of an armistice could even be considered.

The report does not state whether his resignation was accepted.

44 DEATHS IN D. C. FROM INFLUENZA REPORTED AT NOON

676 New Cases Were Recorded Today, as Against 1,312 Yesterday.

12,847 CASES WITH 485 DEATHS DURING OCTOBER

Daily Record for First Fourteen Days of the Month—Shortage in Physicians' Report Cards.

Influenza continued to reap a heavy death toll in the District today, forty-four deaths being recorded up to noon since 9 o'clock last night.

New cases reported, however, showed a big decline. As compared with 1,312 cases registered yesterday, only 676 were recorded up to noon today.

This may not indicate a slowing up in the progress of the epidemic, inasmuch as there has been a shortage of cards on which the disease is reported by physicians. It is possible that some physicians are out of the cards and have delayed making reports of cases under their care.

12,847 Cases; 485 Deaths.

The influenza record from and including October 1, up to noon today, shows a total of 12,847 cases reported and 485 deaths registered. The record by days is as follows:

October	New Cases	Deaths
1	102	10
2	102	10
3	102	10
4	102	10
5	102	10
6	102	10
7	102	10
8	102	10
9	102	10
10	102	10
11	102	10
12	102	10
13	102	10
14 (noon)	676	44
Total	12,847	485

Public Health Service Is Rushing the Preliminaries for Influenza Hospital.

The public health service today rushed plans for equipping an influenza hospital with 500 beds in the building at 18th street and Virginia avenue, vacated last week by the quartermaster general's office.

At the same time the Red Cross was making every effort to obtain nurses for this morning for the influenza hospital. The Red Cross branch at 14th and P streets had received offer of service of 40 nurses from about fifty persons employed in government departments and elsewhere.

Effort to Obtain Nurses.

Commissioner Brownlow yesterday appealed to the heads of government departments and business establishments that they take a census of their employees this morning for the purpose of recruiting nurses and hospital help. It was expected the appeal would result in a large number of nurses being volunteered by many persons during the afternoon.

Beds have been ordered for the new hospital and the institution probably will be ready to receive patients in two or three days.

Fowler today commended Washington's coffin supply. This action was taken to prevent coffins from being sold out of the district. The demand for caskets in Alexandria and other nearby points was being met by the supply, and effort had been made to obtain them in Washington.

When the outside in being made to Washington for nurses, but the authorities are taking steps to keep the district all those qualified and willing to render service of this character. Even this does not promise that the local situation will be adequately met.

Gauze Masks for Public Considered.

Held in abeyance by the Commission today were the proposals looking toward an order for the wearing of gauze masks by the entire population and the closing of schools and other places of business. It appeared probable that the wearing of masks would not be considered, especially if the situation does not become worse. The Commissioner is not disposed to close public places until the situation is more serious than at present.

To take this step would open the question of closing churches and similar business establishments.

KAISER IS URGED TO QUIT THRONE BY A GERMAN PAPER

PARIS, October 14.—In commenting on the German peace proposals, the *Reichs-Zeitung* of Leipzig, Saxony, is quoted in a dispatch from Switzerland as saying:

"In the minds of the German people responsibility for the present situation centers more and more clearly each day on the person of the emperor."

"We see in William II the last German military monarch. He must feel that he can no longer be what he has thought himself since the first day of his reign—an instrument sent by God, and, above all, the chief of the most brilliant and best organized army."

"In 1888 the emperor said he would sacrifice his throne for his people. He would give a brilliant example of his understanding of the time and would permit the German people to obtain better peace terms."



NEARLY 1,000 DEAD IN FOREST FIRES

Twenty-One Towns Are Destroyed, With Property Damage in Millions.

THOUSANDS HOMELESS

By the Associated Press.

DULUTH, Minn., October 14.—Twenty-one towns were destroyed, with a known death list of 289, by the fire which swept northeastern Minnesota Saturday and Sunday. The injured in Duluth hospitals total 100. The towns totally or partially destroyed are Duluth, Hibbing, Kettle River, Grand Rapids, Manganese, Pine Point, Hancock, Grand Lake, Maple Grove, Twin Lakes, Mathews, Atkinson, Clinton, French River, Carlton, Pike Lake, Brockton, Breckner and Pine Hill.

DULUTH, Minn., October 14.—A large section of northeastern Minnesota—three days ago a busy and prosperous business and farming country—today was a smoldering ruin, with hundreds of bodies of men, women and children, many of them burned beyond recognition, strewn about the countryside, as the result of the disastrous forest fires which swept this territory Saturday and Sunday.

Lake Superior estimates place the death list at close to 1,000, although no official figures were available early today. Hundreds of persons are more or less seriously burned, thousands are destitute and homeless and the property loss will run into many millions of dollars. At least a dozen persons have been killed and many others are seriously injured. The worst blazes were at Moose Lake, Kettle River and Cloquet. In Moose Lake and immediate vicinity it is estimated more than 300 persons perished in the flames. Between 300 and 400 persons have been ordered sent to this town alone.

Although countless small fires were burning throughout the district today, the most serious of the burning of the district was at Cloquet, where a revival of the seventy-mile-an-hour wind from the west brought further horrors and added greatly to the tragedy.

Enemy Agents Suspected.

Reports that the holocaust resulted from the work of enemy agents were circulated here. Definite confirmation was not available, but incendiaries were driven away from a local shipyard when the fires in Duluth and Superior were burning at their height. Cloquet and other city and state officials, Duluth and Superior are in no further danger. The fire in Brainerd was untouched. However, a small fire now is said to menace the lake city. Brainerd reported only a small loss.

A special train of twenty coaches brought 1,500 refugees to Cloquet from Carlton. They confirmed reports that many persons lost their lives in those towns.

Policeman's Tragic Story.

Albert Michael, a special policeman, told a tragic story of the burning of Cloquet and of the mad rush of its residents to escape.

At 6 o'clock Saturday night a forest ranger gave warning that unless the wind died down the townpeople would have to flee, said Michael. "A thick pall of smoke hung over the town and at 7 o'clock the special trains were called."

People at the station were indescribable. There came a rush of wind, and the entire town was in flames. The train pulled out and the fires blazed closely behind them. Women wept and clung to their children, and the babies cried for their missing ones. The flames licked at the cars. Windows in the coaches were broken by the heat. The engines and firemen alternately stopped to give the boilers all the fuel they could stand.

Other trains were hurriedly made of flat cars, box cars and anything that would roll. When they all did not get away, there were many dead in Cloquet.

Cloquet was a town with about 7,500 population. More than 4,700 persons were brought to Duluth and Superior from there alone.

Information brought in by rescue parties here indicated that nearly one hundred bodies have been found on roads leading to Duluth. Several automobiles filled with bodies were passed by the rescuers. Other bodies are being brought from every village and hamlet stricken by the fire.

The town of Twig, on the Miller trunk road, was wiped out.

Other towns reported as being entirely destroyed included Rice Lake, Brockton, Breckner, Corns, Adolph, and others.

How About It?

You CAN buy a Liberty Bond! 10 per cent cash and 10 per cent a month will do it.

This is only \$5 a month on a \$50 bond and \$10 a month on a \$100.

Any bank in Washington will be glad to sell you a bond on this basis.

And the banks are keeping open until 9 o'clock tonight for your convenience.

How about it?

DISTRICT LIBERTY LOAN COMMITTEE.

RUSHING CRUSADE FOR LIBERTY LOAN

Washington Today Enters Upon Greatest Bond-Selling Campaign in City's History.

\$15,895,000 NOW PLEDGED

Washington is today entering upon the greatest selling crusade in its history, that it may be successful in raising the \$27,000,000 asked of it by the government.

According to complete tabulated figures furnished by all but half a dozen of the smaller banks, the city's total liberty loan subscription at 10 o'clock this morning was \$15,895,000, which leaves more than \$11,700,000 to be raised between now and Saturday night, the time set for the closing of the national drive.

Pledges Not Yet "Cleared."

In announcing the official total today the local loan committee said several pledges for very large amounts have been made, but have not yet been cleared through any bank, making it impossible to credit them to the official total. It is further explained that to raise its quota Washington must sell at least \$1,950,000 worth of bonds every day from now until the campaign ends.

The total number of individual subscribers in Washington to date is 79,169. In announcing this the committee said it was especially gratified at the showing and that it expects twice that many before the campaign is over.

Despite Peace Talk and Epidemic.

German peace talk and Spanish influenza will not be permitted to defeat the efforts to obtain Washington's quota in the allotted time, although only a little over one-half of the required amount has been raised, according to the committee managing the loan drive here.

"This, the final week, will be an active one. The committee has no idea of letting matters lag because of letting matters lag because there can be peace," is this:

Key Paragraphs Quoted.

"The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that stands against peace, and of its single choice of peace, is the only way to secure peace. The peace of the world, or if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotence."

Later on in the address of September 27 in New York, which Germany says she specifically accepts or implies an affirmative answer to the following question as one of the issues of the war:

"Shall peoples be ruled and dominated, even in their own internal affairs, by arbitrary, irresponsible force or by the own will chosen?"

Germany has said "yes" to these questions by saying that she affirms all that Max at Mount Vernon President Wilson said in his address of January 8 and subsequent addresses.

To Test Anew Sincerity.

It is unquestionably Mr. Wilson's purpose to determine anew the sincerity of the German peace party on this point, for there is no doubt that the action of the German government in terms discussed until that fundamental proposition is fully covered by the German government at Constantine.

The President's inquiry of last week embraced three points: "Do the Germans accept the allied interpretation of peace terms?" Do the Germans accept the allied interpretation of peace terms?" Do the Germans accept the allied interpretation of peace terms?"

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NEW FURIOUS BLOW IN FLANDERS MAY BE FOCH MASTER MOVE

British, French and Belgians in Surprise Attack Near Comines.

GO OVER THE TOP WITHOUT WARNING BOMBARDMENT

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FLANDERS, October 14 (by the Associated Press), 1:30 a.m.—British, Belgian and French forces attacked at dawn this morning on a wide front in Flanders. The allied troops are driving in the general direction of Ghent and Courtrai.

The attack seems to be general from Comines to the northward. The troops of the three nations went over the top after a "crash" bombardment only. There was no preliminary bombardment. It undoubtedly tactically surprised the enemy.

In the British formations were some of Great Britain's best troops and the forces of the French were of famous fighting organizations. The Germans appear perhaps prepared to retire to the Ghent line.

By the fury with which the attack was launched it is evident that the fighting armies are not paying the slightest attention to the "peace talk." They smashed forward with all the dash characterizing the recent operations.

By the Associated Press.

German forces have abandoned Laon and the whole St. Gobain region. The French, after reoccupying Laon, have pressed on until their line now runs from the Oise river above La Fere to the eastern end of Chemin des Dames.

When the Germans began to fall back out of the bag into which they were being slowly caught by the rapid advance of the allies on each side they went with such speed that the change in the battle line in that section of the front during a few hours was astonishing. Not until the French reached the Laon-La Fere railroad did they encounter any real resistance.

Italians Participate.

Italian troops participated in the advance, and are now engaged on the hills north of the Ailette river. At this point the German lines have been pressed back or have been withdrawn so that a sharp angle has been created.

With the exception of the area north of Douai, there appears to have been a slowing down of the allied advance during the past couple of days. At no point have the British and Americans swept ahead as they did on Thursday and Friday of last week.

This may indicate that the Germans have reached what is known as the Hunting, or Brunhild, line. This position, while much less formidable, so far as known, than the Hindenburg system, is still strong enough to retard pursuit by the allies, and perhaps hold them for some time.

Route of Hunting Line.

The Hunting line runs from Antwerp to Ghent and thence to Tournai, Conde, Valenciennes, Solesmes, Guise, Bethel, Vouziers, Dun-sur-Meuse and then down the base of the St. Mihiel salient to the Meuse, where it is broken through by running through Lorraine and the Vosges to the Swiss frontier.

French and British forces have virtually reached the line east of Cambrai and St. Quentin. British units are reported to have crossed the line at Valenciennes, Solesmes, Guise, Bethel, Vouziers, Dun-sur-Meuse and then down the base of the St. Mihiel salient to the Meuse, where it is broken through by running through Lorraine and the Vosges to the Swiss frontier.

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